



Workforce Board

The Workforce Board is a state agency committed to the development of a highly skilled workforce that will sustain Washington's economic vitality. We accomplish this through research, partnership building, and policies designed to serve a diverse population.

CAREER GUIDANCE

Background:

High school graduation requirements include a provision that all students will have a high school and beyond plan for their high school experience, including what they expect to do the year following graduation.

Secondary schools in the state are only required to hire one person for both counseling and guidance services.

Needless to say, most students do not have meaningful contact with adults in the school who can guide them in their course-taking and career planning.

What Needs to Be Done:

The state needs to implement a comprehensive guidance curriculum, such as Navigation 101, in all middle school and high schools.

- The Workforce Board is using a federal grant to support replication of the "Navigation" model for a comprehensive guidance system under a federal grant.
- A limited number of schools have been reached through this effort.
- The Workforce Board supports the Governor's budget proposal to provide \$410,000 to the OSPI for dissemination of the Navigation 101 guidance and counseling curriculum developed by the Franklin Pierce School District.

WHY

To increase retention, rigorous course-taking, graduation, and transition to postsecondary opportunities. Early indications are that students using a comprehensive guidance curriculum progress more successfully in school and take more rigorous coursework.

The Workforce Board advocates for the 75 percent of the state's workforce that enter occupations not requiring a four-year degree.

Executive Director: Ellen O'Brien Saunders, 360.753.5660 Legislative Liaison: Wes Pruitt, 360.586.1652